

acres of Federal land that they are not currently drilling. If big oil really wants to drill more, why aren't they drilling?

Madam Speaker, Washington Republicans are wrong again to rely on big oil to bring down the prices at the pump. After all, while American consumers battle these record prices, big oil is laughing all the way to the bank.

#### THE CURE FOR PUMP PANIC

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, with all the gloom, doom and despair about the high gasoline prices, there is a remedy to this pessimistic pump panic. Before we start passing out bicycles to the multitudes or start going to Dr. Phil for therapy, we can and should obtain more crude oil here in America. Crude oil will still be the driving energy of this Nation for the foreseeable future until we find some alternative. And we don't need to line the pockets of OPEC and Third World dictators by begging them for more crude. We already give them \$425 million a day!

The U.S. Geological Survey has released a report that says the "sweet crude" oil find in the Williston-Bakken Basin is larger than first believed. It is enormous. According to the report, it is over 500 billion barrels, and it is located in the Dakotas. It is 15 times larger than the oil in the Alaskan North Slope.

America needs to take care of America. We need to remove the silly restrictions that prohibit drilling. We need to drill in the Badlands of the Dakotas; remove the offshore drilling ban; drill in Alaska; and we can cure this pump panic disease.

And that's just the way it is.

#### EXPRESSING SYMPATHY FOR THE FLOOD AND TORNADO VICTIMS IN IOWA

(Mr. LOEBSACK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LOEBSACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my sincere sympathy for residents in my district and around Iowa who are currently experiencing severe flooding at record setting levels.

Just this weekend I went to two neighborhoods to help sandbag and protect homes. I spoke with a man who pointed to his home and said, "This is the only thing I have." It was a very emotional setting. I was touched by the intensity and good spirits of many of the residents and volunteers despite the circumstances, and I commend them for their perseverance.

The Governor of Iowa has already issued emergency proclamations for many of Iowa's counties, and four counties have been declared Presi-

dential disaster areas. I understand that the National Guard has been activated to assist in the flood control efforts. I am grateful for their assistance. I continue to stand ready to help my fellow Iowans in any way possible.

#### SOLUTIONS EXIST FOR HIGH GAS PRICES

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I feel sympathy for the folks paying these high gas prices. Here is a problem: On average, \$3.98, take in climate change 50 cents and we'll be paying \$4.48 a gallon.

Here is the solution: Outer Continental Shelf, which is off-limits by appropriation bills; moving coal-to-liquid technology, which has been blocked here on motions to recommit; expanding renewable fuels, which has been helpful, but still is not the panacea.

The New York Times, which is not one of our best supporters, says the counties were motorists spend the highest percentage of their income on gasoline tend to be poor, rural areas, which is what I represent. That is why I am on the floor monthly now talking about gas reaching \$4 a gallon, refinery expansion delayed because of environmental attacks, the clean gas, \$4 increase in price of natural gas bills.

Our consuming public cannot stand these high prices any more. Our manufacturing base cannot. We have to bring on more supply.

#### THE PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT

(Ms. SPEIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, 45 years ago today, President Kennedy signed a law to end what he called the "unconscionable practice of paying female workers less wages than male workers for the same job."

When President Kennedy signed the law, women earned 60 cents for every dollar earned by a man. In 2006, the woman's share is 77 cents. While we have made some progress in 45 years, it is scant at best. Since 1963 the ratio has narrowed by less than one-half cent per year. At this rate, my 13-year-old daughter will be close to retirement by the time President Kennedy's order is realized.

That is why I am cosponsoring H.R. 1338, the Paycheck Fairness Act, which adds teeth to previous laws.

Equal pay for equal work is as American as a principle can be. This is not about men versus women, but basic fairness. And its ramifications affect everyone. Paying women less hurts men who aren't hired because hiring a woman is cheaper. It hurts families by devaluing the work of women and mothers who are already paying out of

pocket for child care so they can pursue a career. In short, it hurts all of America, and it must end right here, right now.

#### YOU CAN'T GET OIL FROM A DRY HOLE

(Mr. WESTMORELAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, more smoke and mirrors that we are hearing this morning from the majority party about, oh, there is plenty of land to drill in, the big oil companies just aren't drilling. Let me just straighten that out just a little bit. Ninety-seven percent of the Federal offshore drilling sites are off-limits. Ninety-four percent of the federally owned onshore areas are off-limits. Fifty-two percent of the area that oil companies drilled in between 2002 and 2007 were dry holes. We need to allow these oil companies to drill in areas where there actually is oil.

I don't know the economics that the majority party has, but if there is no oil, why would you drill there? That does not make sense. If the government would sell companies leases that have oil in them instead of selling them places that turn out to be dry holes, then we would have more oil produced in this country. We imported over 600 million gallons of gasoline last year. We need to add to our refinery capabilities, also.

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#### ANOTHER MONTH OF JOB LOSSES: CONGRESS SHOULD EXTEND UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

(Mr. YARMUTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, every month this year our economy has shed more jobs than it has produced. Last month was no exception; 49,000 jobs were lost nationwide and unemployment rose from 5 percent in April to 5.5 percent in May. That is the largest 1 month increase in 20 years.

As job losses continue on a monthly basis, it is becoming increasingly difficult for the unemployed to find jobs, and it is expected to get even worse. That is why last month this Congress passed legislation to extend unemployment benefits for an additional 13 weeks.

Today, more than 1 million people have exhausted all of their benefits. Washington should provide these workers some additional relief as they continue to pursue a job through these rough times. Yet President Bush and congressional Republicans oppose the unemployment insurance extension, even though they supported a similar extension in 2002 when economic conditions were not nearly as hard as they are today.